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FOURTH SERIES OF TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

GEORGE DICKIE, M.D.

LECTURER ON ZOOLOGY AND BOTANY IN THE UNIVERSITY AND KING'S
COLLEGE OF ABERDEEN.



TESTIMONIALS.

*From the very REV. DR. JACK, Principal of the University
and King's College of Aberdeen.*

It affords me sincere pleasure to have an opportunity of expressing my esteem for DR. DICKIE, and my high opinion of his talents and his acquirements in Natural History, especially in the departments of Zoology and Botany, on both of which Branches he has Lectured in this College, with the approbation of those best qualified to judge.

My opinion is that DR. DICKIE's services would be found to be a valuable acquisition in any College, and I regret our inability to offer sufficient inducement to retain them in ours.

WILLIAM JACK, D.D.

24th November, 1848.

*From the REV. DR. FLEMING, Professor of Natural Science,
New College, Edinburgh.*

I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the merits of DR. DICKIE, as a laborious and successful cultivator of the Natural Sciences. Having enjoyed the pleasure of his acquaintance during more than a dozen of years, I have had ample opportunities of witnessing his acuteness and power of observation, together with his great caution in generalising. Professionally educated to the use of the scalpel, and familiar with the difficulties of microscopical investigations, his resources in inquiry are extensive and valuable, and to them are united continuous industry. He has long been a successful Lecturer on Botany in the University with which I was recently connected, and has of late been employed in the same Institution in delivering Lectures on Zoology. His publications in Botany have placed him in a high rank among our Physiologists,

and in the obscure departments of Zoology his knowledge is extensive and accurate. Were he appointed to a Chair of Botany or Zoology in one of the new Colleges of Ireland, I am fully convinced that he would enlighten and stimulate his pupils, add to the fame of the Institution, and greatly advance the interests of science. To his great scientific attainments are added modesty, uprightness, and an obliging disposition, well calculated to promote the harmony of an Academic body.

NEW COLLEGE, Edinburgh,
November 21, 1848.

*From DR. FYFE, Professor of Medicine and of Chemistry, in the
University and King's College of Aberdeen.*

MY DEAR SIR,

I have much pleasure in complying with your request that I would state my opinion as to your fitness for discharging the duties of Professor of Zoology and Botany in one of the Colleges about to be instituted in Ireland. I have already given my opinion as to the latter of these departments, and from the opportunities I have since had, am now prepared to give it as to the former, because I have had the pleasure of attending your Lectures on some departments of Natural History given in this University, in which Zoology was treated of, at considerable length,—indeed occupied the principal part of the course. These Lectures I attended regularly, and must say that I was highly pleased with the manner in which you treated the subject, and with the facility and clearness with which you conveyed your instructions to your hearers.

Your knowledge of the subject seemed to me to be extensive, the course of Lectures well arranged, and the illustrations given, well selected. I have been much pleased also with the zeal and assiduity with which you prosecute the different departments of science connected with those that form the object of the Chair in view.

With these qualifications, I feel convinced that, if elected to the Chair, you will perform its duties faithfully and conscientiously, and to the entire satisfaction of those placed under your charge.

I am, your's sincerely,

A. FYFE, M.D.

24th November, 1848.

To Dr. DICKIE.

From DR. REDFERN, Lecturer on Anatomy and Physiology, and on Histology, in the University and King's College of Aberdeen.

DURING the last three years DR. DICKIE has been well-known to me as an enthusiastic cultivator of Zoology and Botany. His time has been chiefly spent in the study of these subjects, and in the successful teaching of them to the Students of the University. His researches, published from time to time in the different journals and other works, abundantly testify to the success of his efforts in these branches, and to his zeal and devotion to his favourite pursuits. As a Botanist, DR. DICKIE ranks very high, having for a number of years successfully applied the Microscope to the study of the textures and functions of plants, and their analogy to those found in the animal kingdom. He possesses a very valuable series of preparations illustrating these textures, with their mode of development, their changes at different periods, &c., which he uses in demonstrations before his pupils. To this admirable method I attribute a great part of his success in teaching, whilst his researches on the development of the ovum in plants, the structure of the shell of the egg of birds, fossil infusoria, &c., have been the result of carefully conducted microscopical researches.

As a teacher, DR. DICKIE possesses a very happy mode of communicating the information he possesses to his pupils, and has always shown himself desirous of promoting the advancement of those placed under his care.

In conclusion, I may state, with confidence, that DR. DICKIE is highly qualified to occupy a Chair from which Zoology or Botany are to be taught; and that his connection with any University or College will be found most satisfactory in regard to its interests and that of the pupils studying within its walls.

P. REDFERN,

M.D., LOND., M.R.C.S.L., &c.

Aberdeen, Nov. 24, 1848.

From DR. ADAMS, Translator of Paulus Ægineta, &c.

EANCHORY-TERNAN,
Nov. 25, 1848.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have so often benefited by your friendly assistance in my own Zoological studies, that you may rest assured few things

could afford me greater gratification than to have an opportunity of speaking to your attainments in that line, whenever my good opinion could be of any service to you. I am sensible, however, that any pretensions to an intimate acquaintance with Natural History, on my part, are so slender, that I do not think myself entitled to give any formal certificate as to the attainments of a Gentleman so much better acquainted with the subject than I can pretend to be. Indeed, owing to my own education in that branch having been very much neglected in early life, I am sensible that I should never have become initiated in the first elements of it but for the kind assistance I have derived from you. Whenever I applied for any information I always found you prepared and anxious to impart it. Your knowledge of Practical Zoology and Structural Anatomy, I am well aware, is not of recent date. And the opportunities which you have enjoyed of late in the Museum of King's College, must have so familiarized you with the systematic arrangement of the subject, that I am persuaded you are well qualified to teach Natural History in all its branches.

Along with your other friends, I have long regretted that your merits in that way have not properly been rewarded. And I would be much delighted indeed, to hear of you being promoted to a situation where you could turn your attainments to some better account.

Believe me always,

MY DEAR SIR,

Most truly yours,

FR. ADAMS.

From J. E. GRAY, ESQ., of the Zoological Department, British Museum.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have great pleasure in stating that I have read with pleasure your Botanical Papers, and that I consider the few Zoological remarks which you have published as highly creditable to your talents, and show your accuracy as an observer.

It has been a favourite opinion of mine, that the best preliminary study for the Zoologist is Botany, and that all those Zoologists who

have had the advantage of having studied the branch alluded to, have done most for the advancement of Zoology. I have used this argument in my Address from the Presidential Chair of the Botanical Society of London.

Believe me, my dear Sir,

Ever your's faithfully,

JOHN EDW. GRAY.

*From DR. MACGILLIVRAY, Professor of Natural History,
Marischal College and University, Aberdeen.*

DR. DICKIE having requested me to offer my opinion as to his acquaintance with Natural History in general, and with Zoology in particular, I may, in the first place, state that I have had the pleasure of being acquainted with him since the summer of 1841, and have often conversed with him on the subjects in question. His proficiency in Botany, I need only observe, has been amply evinced by the important additions which he has made to Vegetable Physiology, his investigations of the Flora of Aberdeenshire, and his public Lectures, all of which have been duly estimated by persons whose attainments qualify them to form a correct judgment. I have reason to believe that he is possessed of extensive and accurate information respecting the Anatomy, Physiology, and Classification of many of the Orders of Animals, and that of late years he has especially directed his attention to those subjects. He has long been engaged in Microscopic researches with reference to both the Animal and Vegetable Kingdoms, and his success in this mode of observation is well known to his friends, and, in part also, to the public. His various attainments in Literature and Science, I may allude to as calculated to enhance his aptitude for the study of Natural History, and his moral qualities have seemed to me to be in harmony with his intellectual powers. In short, not to enter into unnecessary detail, I am of opinion that he is well fitted to impart instruction in Zoology as a Lecturer, or to aid the progress of that Science as an observer, and that in Botany he has well merited the estimation in which he is held, and that, in either Science, he has right to expect the highest honours.

(Signed) W. MACGILLIVRAY, L.L.D.

Professor of Natural History,
and Lecturer on Botany.

Nov. 24, 1848.

*From DR. DYCE, Lecturer on Midwifery, Marischal Collegé, and
one of the Physicians to the Aberdeen Infirmary.*

I HAVE much pleasure in bearing testimony to the merits of my friend, DR. DICKIE. I have known him for many years devoted in his pursuit of the Sciences accessory to Medicine, particularly to Botany and Zoology, in the latter department especially. I have often admired the ardour and zeal with which he has pursued it, and I cannot but wish, as I believe it would be for the interest of Science, that he may soon find and obtain a sphere of action corresponding to his talents and capabilities.

(Signed) ROBERT DYCE, M.D.

Aberdeen, Nov. 28, 1848.